

**SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
**WORKSHOP – June 25, 2015**

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, conducted a workshop on Thursday, June 25, 2015, at 11:20 a.m., in the Cabinet Conference Room, Administration Building, 301 4<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Largo, Florida.

Present: Mrs. Linda S. Lerner, Chairperson; Mrs. Peggy L. O'Shea, Vice-Chairperson; Ms. Janet R. Clark, Mrs. Carol J. Cook; Ms. Rene Flowers, Mrs. Terry Krassner, Dr. Ken Peluso, Members; Dr. Michael Grego, Superintendent; Dr. William Corbett, Deputy Superintendent; and Mr. David Koperski, School Board Attorney.

Ms. Rene Flowers was not in attendance during a portion of the meeting.

The following topics were discussed:

- **2015-2016 Budget:** Mr. Kevin Smith, Associate Superintendent, Finance and Business Services, presented the proposed budget for review and discussion. Mr. Smith and staff members Karen Coffey, Executive Director, Budget and Resource Allocation, and LouAnn Jourdan, Budget Specialist, reviewed ten key topics. The topics were: Overview of Fiscal Trends, Operating Fund (General Fund) Budget, Charter School Projections, Capital Outlay Fund Budget, Debt Service Fund, Contracted Program Fund Budget, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (AARA), School Food Service Budget, Internal Service Fund Budget and Permanent Fund. All figures were updated to reflect the funding indicated in the State Legislature's Conference Report for 2015-16 released on Tuesday, June 16, 2015. The first Public Hearing on the 2015-16 Budget and Millage Rates is scheduled for July 28, 2015 with the final Public Hearing on September 8, 2015, both at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Hall in the Administration Building. The Pinellas County Property Appraiser estimates an increase of 6.6% over last year's gross taxable values. Mr. Smith spoke of the referendum supplement for teachers which varies each year; this year the supplement is projected to increase by \$201.00 for a total of \$3,930.00. The topic of contingency monies was raised and Dr. Peluso stated that we should review our current policy for contingency minimums. Mr. Smith shared that the state recommendation is 5.5% by next year. Mrs. Lerner shared that 1.5% is what our current policy states. Dr. Peluso suggested the 5.5% should be the minimum the district would consider to be fiscally responsible. Mrs. Lerner suggested that this policy revision be discussed at a workshop. Technology expenditures were explained as this is a necessary component to support student learning and the increased use of computers for assessments. Mr. Tom Lechner, Assistant Superintendent, Technology and Information Systems, shared that we are moving away from leasing computers. Per Dr. Corbett, all new computers are purchased. There is a five year refresh plan and four year warranties are purchased with the equipment to reduce repair costs. Mr. Lechner stated that his department uses a rubric to determine if a computer is worth repairing or tag obsolete. Title I funding was discussed and Mrs. Krassner and Mrs. Lerner raised questions about the equity of those funds. Dr. Grego noted that Title I schools receive the Title I dollars because it is set up that way. Mrs. Lerner asked for the topic of the Title I budget to be on the July 21, 2015 workshop agenda. Four board members were in agreement. Mrs. Lerner also mentioned the equalized formula that the state uses to fund other districts that don't collect as much tax revenue as Pinellas. Mr. Smith said that we are a donating district and we contribute 3.7% from our property tax revenue.
- **Capital Outlay Long Range Building Plan:** Mr. Clint Herbic, Associate Superintendent, Operational Services shared his long range plan for district capital improvements.

Mr. Herbic shared three documents with the Board: Six Year Capital Outlay Plan, Five Year Plant Needs Assessment Scoring Handbook and Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Proposed Five Year Work Plan. To develop the plan he conducted a needs assessment and based on that assessment separated out the maintenance projects from the capital outlay projects. He then did a supplemental survey which must be sent to the state and approved by our school board. Then, a project priority list was developed and finally, projects planned will need approval by the state. Once the project is approved Mr. Herbic will send a letter notifying the school principal of the plan. Mrs. Cook thanked Mr. Herbic for a very thoughtful process and the materials shared. Dr. Peluso asked how the district will be paying for all these capital improvements. Mr. Herbic said they want to propose bonding for some of the projects. Mr. Kevin Smith shared that this money would enhance the timeline for completion of these projects and interest rates are currently low. Dr. Peluso said he was in favor of that proposal. Dr. Grego stated that the plan is strong and our technology plan compliments our capital outlay plan since the departments involved worked collaboratively. Mrs. Lerner asked board members if they wanted the bonding proposal to be researched and the six members in attendance were in agreement. Mr. Herbic also spoke of his ability to reduce the number of leased portables; currently we are down to 47. His plan is to eliminate the use of portables except during construction projects. He also spoke about his "Spruce It Up Campaign" that he launched to improve the appearance of our buildings through minor projects. It is now going on at Seminole High; 40 interior doors were painted, landscaping improved and all pending work orders were completed. This is an exciting project and everyone in the community will see the pride and care we are demonstrating for our surroundings.

- **2015-2016 District Strategic Plan:** Dr. Michael A. Grego and Dr. Mary Beth Corace, Director, Strategic Planning and Policy, reviewed the five goals of the plan. Dr. Grego stated that the plan is focused on improvement and driving the district forward. He said it is a fluid document; we are continually updating it as data is received. Dr. Corace shared that part of the AdvancED accreditation process included five standards and indicators and those standards are incorporated in our work. In their executive summary, recommendations were made; the recommended standards have been incorporated into our DSP. In early August, the District Strategic Plan will be completed and it is projected that there will be 50 goals. Notebooks for each of the five goals are maintained by Dr. Corace and regularly updated with supporting documents to monitor our progress.
- **Leadership Discussion:**
  - Dr. Grego called upon Steve Swartzel to update the Board on the state budget and how it impacts education. Mr. Swartzel shared a document: 2015 Pinellas Education Conference Report. There is a new Standard Student Attire Incentive Fund for dress code guidelines. Dr. Grego said he will check with the state to determine if we are eligible for these funds since many schools have modified dress codes. Mr. Swartzel stated that September committee meetings will be starting and there is a lot of unfinished business that the legislature needs to tackle. He advised the Board to continue making contact with legislators to support educational issues.

No official actions were taken by the Board at this workshop. An audio recording of this workshop is filed in the Board Office archives. This workshop adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

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Chairperson  
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Secretary